anti-dumping duty on raw silk for five more years to safeguard their interests, which has come to an end on 2008;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d): Representations have been received from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal for extending the anti-dumping duty on mulberry raw silk for a further period of five years to safeguard the interests of the sericulture farmers. On the basis of a petition received from Central Silk Board, on behalf of several federations and associations of Silk growers and reelers, the Designated Authority has already initiated the review investigation to examine the need for continued imposition of anti-dumping duty as per Section 9 A (5) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. Consequent upon initiation of a sunset review investigation of the anti-dumping duty by the Designated Authority, *vide* notification No. 15/12/2007-DGAD dated the 14th December, 2007, the anti-dumping duty on mulberry raw silk has been extended till 1st January, 2009, *vide* Customs Notification No. 01/2008-Customs dated 1st January, 2008.

Compensation to exporters hit by rupee appreciation

2516. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved an additional Rs. 500 crore for interest subvention for exporters to compensate them for the reduction in their profits due to appreciation of the rupee against the dollar;

(b) if so, whether this amount would be used to provide cheaper credit to exporters and the banks will lend to exporters at rates cheaper than prevailing market interest;

(c) whether Government has agreed to reimburse them the difference; and

(d) if so, to what extent it has been helpful to the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Government has provided subvention in the rate of interest on pre and post shipment credit by 2% on the outstanding balances for the period 1-04-2007 to 31.03.2008 in respect of nine identified sectors and exporters from SME sector. In addition, in respect of four sectors, namely leather and leather manufacturers, marine products, all categories of textiles under the existing scheme including readymade garments and carpets but excluding manmade fibres and handicrafts, additional subvention of 2% has been provided. Government has approved Rs. 800 crores for this purpose of which Rs. 300 crores has already been released to Reserve Bank of India during the last financial year and the balance has been approved for release during the current financial year. RBI has already received a number of proposals from scheduled commercial banks for reimbursement of interest subvention.